

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
OF
COLEFORD
(COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER),
FOR THE YEAR 1925.

COLEFORD :

PRINTED AT THE " GUARDIAN " OFFICE.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
COLEFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for 1925.

The District has been free from any infectious disease, yet the general health of the people has not been good, as the mortality returns show, there being 40 deaths recorded this past year, as against 28 in 1924, and a like number in 1923. This mortality also included the deaths of two children under one year of age. Influenza, however, was very slight, and no death was recorded as being due to it. The attendance at school was also very good. The births numbered 48, 27 males and 21 females; 3 were illegitimate. For the first time since the end of the war, instead of an increase the district has shewn a decrease in population.

Since the Council took over the cleansing of the town themselves there has been a continuation in the cleanliness of the streets, and the mud has been very little indeed, though the year has been an exceptionally wet one. The amount of refuse has, however, greatly increased. Something needs to be done to prevent householders from putting waste paper in the dustbins, which blow about the streets on removal, thus causing them to look very untidy and neglected. Will householders kindly take note of this request?

WATER SUPPLY.

This past year being a wet one, throughout the whole year there was a good supply, but the question of a good and constant supply, so necessary to the health of the community at large, still remains unsettled, the present supply being still inadequate for hygienic, flushing, and sewerage requirements.

No new wells have been sunk, though one was bound to be closed, sewage matter having percolated into it. Two samples were taken for examination.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

There has been no alteration in this respect, though the need remains as great. We have had to connect four houses with the existing sewers.

16 new privies have been constructed, and the old ones abolished.

THE BROOK

Running under the middle of the town still acts as its sewer.

HOUSING.

One new house was built this past year by a private owner. There are now 700 in the District.

They are occupied by 735 families.

16 privy vaults were abolished.

There are 296 pail closets. They are emptied once a week by the scavenger.

262 houses were inspected for housing defects. Several of these should be condemned if others were available.

50 houses were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.

33 were not found in all respects fit for human habitation.

23 were made fit by the Local Authority Officers by informal action.

Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:

Eight houses were served with notices requiring defects to be remedied.

Six of these were remedied by the owners.

No proceedings were taken under Sections 17 and 18 of the House Town Planning Act of 1909, the number available being so small as to forbid any diminution in the number.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The following premises, Dairies, etc., were inspected as follows :—

The one Common Lodging House—52 times.

Four Slaughter Houses—198 times.

Six Bakehouses—24 times.

20 Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops—40 times.

Five Workshops—15 times.

37 complaints were received and reported to the District Council, and 33 were abated.

Three Swine Nuisances were reported, inspected, and abated.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of the Coleford Urban District is now 2,841, according to returns of the Registrar General.

48 children were born in the District, viz., 27 boys and 21 girls.

Three of these were illegitimate.

Our birth rate is therefore 16·6 That of England and Wales for the smaller towns is 18·3.

The total deaths were 40, 21 males and 19 females.

Our death rate is therefore 14·3 for the District.

That of England and Wales (for the smaller towns) is 42. Two of these deaths were of children under one year of age. One of these children died of complications following a very difficult confinement. An unavoidable death. The other was due to Bronchitis, at age of six months.

Three people reached the age of 90 and over ; eight were over 80, and 13 were over 70, when they died.

Five people died of Heart Disease, four of Cancer, three of Pneumonia, four of Bronchitis, and four of bleeding in to the brain.

One woman drowned herself in a well, and three died from accidents.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

We have been very free from all Infectious Diseases this past year. Scarlet Fever (two cases) being all that we suffered from the whole year, but I regret to state that we lost by death three old cases of Consumption of the Lungs, and one case of Tuberclse of the covering of the Brain.

MIDWIFERY

Is undertaken by the District Nurse acting under a voluntary Association. This Nurse also takes Health Visiting and School Nursing on behalf of the Gloucestershire County Council, expenses being met by Voluntary Contributions and partly by grants from the City Council.

ACTS, BYE-LAWS, LOCAL REGULATIONS.

Part III. Public Health Amendment Acts, 1890.

Part I. to V. Public Health Amendment Acts, 1907.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

The Milk and Dairies Amendment Act, 1922.

Bye-laws, Cleansing of Footways, etc. Prevention of dust, etc., from animals.

Common Lodging Houses, Slaughter Houses, and the New Building Bye-Laws.

PRINCIPAL REQUIREMENTS.

1. A new Water Supply.
2. New Sewers and new Sewerage Scheme.
3. More new Houses.

J. ROWLAND PAYNE,

Medical Officer of Health, Coleford U.D.

